

PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF

Senator Lieberman has received constituent inquiries regarding the Pakistan floods. The following information is provided to constituents seeking information about disaster relief programs, how to contact friends and relatives in Pakistan, and disaster relief programs.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton issued the following statement on behalf of the U.S. government: "Recent flooding in Pakistan has already affected more people than the Indian Ocean tsunami, the Haiti earthquake, and the 2005 Pakistan earthquake combined," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said during an August 20 address to the United Nations. Over 20 million Pakistanis have been affected during this humanitarian crisis and as the rains relentlessly fall the risk of expanded flooding continues. Shortages in food, shelter, clean drinking water, and medical supplies face families across the region and as the water continues to rise, it may get worse before it gets better. To that end, the United States Government through the Department of State created the Pakistan Relief Fund for people to contribute money to the ongoing relief efforts in Pakistan."

AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD - PAKISTAN

Consular officials at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad are providing assistance and support to American citizens - and especially Pakistani-Americans - concerned about the welfare and whereabouts of relatives who may be among those displaced. U.S. Embassy Consular officials are coordinating with Pakistani government agencies as well as international and non-governmental organizations to obtain, update, and disseminate up-to-date information about the situation to all concerned American citizens who contact them.

Contact information for American citizens concerned about relatives who may be Internally Displaced Persons:

Day Phone: +92-51-208-2186 and +92-51-208-2116. If calling from the U.S., dial 011 first. This phone number is not for visa information.)

Email: acs_islamabad@state.gov

U.S. Hotline: If you are in the United States, the Overseas Citizen Services hotline number is 1-888-407-4747.

HOW TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS

The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Donation Phone #:

1-800-728-3843

Website:

<http://savethechildren.org>

IRC

Donation Phone #:

1-877-REFUGEE

Website:

<http://www.theIRC.org>

OXFAM

Donation Phone #:

1-800-77-OXFAM

Website:

<http://oxfamamerica.org>

MERLIN

Donation Phone #:

202-449-6399

Website:

<http://www.merlin-usa.org>

ACTED

Donation Phone #:

202-341-6365

Website:

<http://www.acted.org/en>

Donate to Pakistan Flood Relief Fund - Donate online at

<https://www.pay.gov/paygov/forms/formInstance.html?agencyFormId=28786447> or by

texting FLOOD to 27722 from you mobile phone to give \$10

FACT SHEET – U.S. RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN’S FLOODING DISASTER

The United States has responded immediately and generously to Pakistan's call for assistance following the tragic and devastating floods that began July 29. This includes \$150 million to support immediate relief efforts in Pakistan, through the Pakistan National Disaster Management Authority, the UN's emergency response plan, and many other local and international organizations. An additional \$50 million has been allocated for initial recovery efforts to assist with reestablishment of communities impacted by the floods. The United States is now providing \$200 million as well as significant in kind and technical assistance specifically to address the impact of these floods.

We are expanding pre-existing programs in flood-affected areas, providing temporary bridges, and mobilizing significant U.S. military and civilian resources to rescue victims of the disaster and deliver needed supplies. U.S. military and civilian aircraft continue to support flood relief operations. Through August 26, these aircraft have evacuated 8,275 people and delivered more than 1,900,000 pounds of relief supplies. American businesses and private citizens also are making generous contributions to assist the people of Pakistan.

Latest Developments:

- USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah visited Pakistan August 24-26 to consult with the government and relief organizations on ways to expand and improve flood relief efforts. He announced on August 25 that the U.S. is providing \$50 million to support early recovery programs, such as rehabilitation of community infrastructure and livelihood recovery activities. This \$50 million will be provided from funds as authorized under the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, known as the Kerry-Lugar-Berman Act. The additional funding will support early recovery programs, such as rehabilitation of community infrastructure and livelihood recovery activities.
- People in Pakistan are invited to share information and updates by SMS texting the word FLOODS to 7111. People using the country's active *Humari Awaz* ("Our Voice") cell phone network are able to update each other about the latest flood news, valuable NGO grant and business opportunities and to make new announcements of support by SMS texting the word FLOODS to 7111. The *Humari Awaz* social network was launched by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Government College Lahore during her visit to Pakistan in October 2009. Since the launch, the network's subscribers collectively have sent over 350 million messages. To learn how to use Humari Awaz mobile users need only SMS the words "HELP" or "MADAD" to 7111. An additional 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting have been delivered to Pakistan, bringing the total of the shelter materials to 5,063 rolls. The plastic sheeting will provide temporary shelter for approximately 152,000 people. An additional 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting have been delivered to Pakistan, bringing the total of the shelter materials to 5,063 rolls. The plastic sheeting will provide temporary shelter for approximately 152,000 people.
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- Seven additional mobile water treatment units arrived August 26, bringing the total to 13 now in Pakistan. U.S. water treatment units have produced more than 5.4 million liters of clean water since August 8.
- The US brought in an additional 40 Zodiac inflatable rescue boats, bringing the total to 58.
- On August 26, U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft, based from Afghanistan, delivered 66,200 pounds of food and relief supplies from Rawalpindi to Sukkur and Rajanpur.
- By August 24, the World Food Program (WFP) had provided almost 1.9 million flood-affected beneficiaries with more than 22,300 metric tons of life-saving food.

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which is partially funded by USAID, is providing 4.2 million packets of oral rehydration salts and 2.1 million zinc doses to female health workers conducting community-based management of diarrhea in children under five years of age in flood-affected areas.
- By August 24, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which the United States is supporting through the State Department, had assisted over 335,000 flood-affected beneficiaries with the provision of 20,000 tents, 78,000 plastic tarpaulins, 105,000 blankets, 75,500 sleeping mats, 43,000 jerry cans, 36,000 plastic buckets, 23,000 kitchen sets, 26 metric tons of soap, and 42,000 mosquito nets.
- USAID has committed \$3.9 million to an NGO to support logistics and relief commodities, economic recovery and market systems, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities for flood-affected people in KPk and Sindh provinces.
- USAID is providing monetary and commodity assistance to the affected areas. More information on the USAID response can be seen at www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Pakistan Floods.

TRAVEL WARNING

Pakistan - July 22, 2010

The State Department warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Pakistan. This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning dated January 7, 2010, updates information on security incidents and reminds U.S. citizens of ongoing security concerns in Pakistan.

Pakistani military forces have engaged in a campaign against violent extremist elements across many areas of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) province. Terrorists blame the Pakistani and the U.S. governments for the military pressure on their traditional havens and the death of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader- Baitullah Mehsud- in NWFP in August 2009. In response, militants are seeking to increase their attacks on civilian, government, and foreign targets in Pakistan's cities.

The presence of Al-Qaida, Taliban elements, and indigenous militant sectarian groups poses a potential danger to U.S. citizens throughout Pakistan, especially in the western border regions of the country. Flare-ups of tensions and violence in the many areas of the world also increase the possibility of violence against Westerners. Terrorists and their sympathizers regularly attack civilian, government, and foreign targets, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) province. The Government of Pakistan has heightened security measures, particularly in the major cities.

Threat reporting indicates terrorist groups continue to seek opportunities to attack locations where U.S. citizens and Westerners are known to congregate or visit, such as shopping areas, hotels, clubs and restaurants, places of worship, schools, or outdoor recreation events. In recent incidents, terrorists have disguised themselves as Pakistani security forces personnel to gain access to targeted areas. Some media reports have recently falsely identified U.S. diplomats – and to a lesser extent U.S. journalists and NGO workers – as being intelligence operatives or private security personnel.

Visits by U.S. government personnel to Peshawar and Karachi are limited, and movements by U.S. government personnel assigned to the Consulates General in those cities are severely restricted. U.S. officials in Lahore and Islamabad are instructed to restrict the frequency and to minimize the duration of trips to public markets, restaurants, and other locations. Only a limited number of official visitors are placed in hotels, and for limited stays. Depending on ongoing security assessments, the U.S. Embassy places areas such as hotels, markets, and/or restaurants off limits to official personnel. U.S. citizens in Pakistan are strongly urged to avoid hotels that do not apply stringent security measures and to maintain good situational awareness, particularly when visiting locations frequented by Westerners.

Since October 2009, terrorists have executed coordinated attacks with multiple operatives using portable weaponry such as guns, grenades, RPGs, and suicide vests or car bombs in Peshawar, Lahore and Rawalpindi. Recent attacks included armed assaults on heavily guarded sites such as the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, the Pakistani Army headquarters in Rawalpindi, the United Nations World Food Program's office in Islamabad, police training complexes in Lahore; targeted assassinations, including attacks on Pakistani military officers and politicians in Islamabad, as well as an Iranian diplomat in Peshawar; and suicide bomb attacks in public areas, such as an Islamabad university, a Rawalpindi mosque, and major marketplaces in Lahore and Peshawar.

U.S. citizens have been victims in such attacks. On April 5, 2010, a complex attack on the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar was carried out, with several Pakistani security and military personnel killed or wounded. The October 2009 attack on the World Food Program headquarters resulted in the serious injury of a U.S. citizen. On November 12, 2008, a U.S. citizen contractor and his driver in Peshawar were shot and killed in their car. In September 2008, over 50 people, including three U.S. citizens, were killed and hundreds were injured when a suicide bomber set off a truck filled with explosives outside a major international hotel in Islamabad. In August 2008, gunmen stopped and shot at the vehicle of a U.S. diplomat in Peshawar. In March 2008, a restaurant frequented by Westerners in Islamabad was bombed, killing one patron and seriously injuring several others, including four U.S. diplomats. On March 2, 2006, an U.S. diplomat, a Consulate employee, and three others were killed when a suicide bomber detonated a car packed with explosives alongside the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi. Fifty-two others were wounded.

Since 2007, several U.S. citizens throughout Pakistan have been kidnapped for ransom or for personal reasons. Kidnappings of foreigners are particularly common in the NWFP and Balochistan. In 2008, one Iranian and two Afghan diplomats, two Chinese engineers, and a Polish engineer were kidnapped in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) province. In February 2009, a U.S. UNHCR official was kidnapped in Balochistan. Kidnappings of Pakistanis also increased dramatically across the country, usually for ransom.

According to the Department of State's 2009 Human Rights Report for Pakistan, there were over 200 terrorist attacks, including more than 65 suicide bombings, which killed an estimated 970 civilians and security personnel. Some of the attacks have occurred outside major hotels, in market areas, and other locations frequented by U.S. citizens. Other targets have included restaurants, Pakistani government officials and buildings, police and security forces, mosques, diplomatic missions, and international NGOs. Since late 2007, occasional rockets have targeted areas in and around Peshawar.

Access to many areas of Pakistan, including the FATA along the Afghan border, and the area adjacent to the Line of Control (LOC) in the disputed territory of Kashmir, is restricted by local government authorities for non-Pakistanis. Travel to any restricted region requires official permission by the Government of Pakistan. Failure to obtain such permission in advance can result in arrest and detention by Pakistani authorities. Due to security concerns the U.S. Government currently allows only essential travel within the FATA by U.S. officials. Travel to much of Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) province and Balochistan is also restricted.

Rallies, demonstrations, and processions occur regularly throughout Pakistan on very short notice. The December 2007 death of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a clash between two groups of lawyers in April 2008, ethnic clashes in December 2008, and the bombing of a religious procession in December 2009 each triggered widespread rioting in Karachi. Multiple deaths and injuries as well as widespread property damage occurred on each occasion. Demonstrations have often taken on an anti-American or anti-Western character, and U.S. citizens are urged to avoid large gatherings.

U.S. citizens who travel to or remain in Pakistan despite this Travel Warning are encouraged to register with the Embassy in Islamabad or the Consulates General in Karachi, Lahore, or Peshawar. This registration can be completed online through the Department of State's travel registration website. Alternatively, U.S. citizens without Internet access should contact the nearest Embassy or Consulate for information on registering in person. Registration enables citizens to obtain updated information on travel and security within Pakistan via the emergency alert system (Warden Notices).

The Embassy reiterates its advice to all U.S. citizens to take measures for their safety and security at all times. These measures include maintaining good situational awareness, avoiding crowds, and keeping a low profile. The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that even peaceful demonstrations may become violent and advises U.S. citizens to avoid demonstrations. U.S. citizens should avoid setting patterns by varying times and routes for all required travel. U.S. citizens should ensure that their travel documents and visas are valid at all times.

Official Americans are instructed to avoid use of public transportation and restrict their use of personal vehicles in response to security concerns.

Security threats may on short notice temporarily restrict the ability of U.S. Missions, particularly in Peshawar, to provide routine consular services. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to apply for renewal of travel documents at least three months prior to expiration.

U.S. Embassy in Islamabad

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad is located at Diplomatic Enclave, Ramna 5

Telephone: (92-51) 208-0000

Consular Section telephone: (92-51) 208-2700

Fax: (92-51) 282-2632

U.S. Consulate General in Karachi

The U.S. Consulate General in Karachi, located at 8 Abdullah Haroon Road, closed its public operations indefinitely due to security concerns. U.S. citizens requiring emergency assistance should call the Consular Section in Karachi.

Telephone: (92-21) 3520-4200

Fax: (92-21) 3568-0496

U.S. Consulate General in Lahore

The U.S. Consulate in Lahore is located on 50 Sharah-E-Abdul Hamid Bin Badees (Old Empress Road), near Shimla Hill Rotary.

Telephone: (92-42) 3603-4000

Fax: (92-42) 3603-4200

U.S. Consulate General in Peshawar

The U.S. Consulate in Peshawar is located at 11 Hospital Road, Cantonment, Peshawar.

Telephone: (92-91) 526-8800

Fax: (92-91) 528-4171

U.S. citizens living or traveling in Pakistan are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy or Consulates or through the State Department's **travel registration website** and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Pakistan. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy or Consulates in Pakistan. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet **web site** where the Worldwide Caution and the Pakistan Country Specific Information can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).